THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth from Zion."—MICAH IV: 2.

No. 33, Vol. LV. Monday, August 14, 1893. Price One Penny.

MOHAMMEDANISM IN AMERICA.

THE first number of the *Moslem World* has been issued in New York. The editor is Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb. The object of its publication is to make plain the tenets of Mohammedanism, that is, religion founded and taught by Mohammed. Mr. Webb is an American. He was formerly United States Consul at the Philippine Islands, where he became a Mussulman, that is, a convert to Mohammedanism. He is now founding a publishing house at the city of New York for the printing of Mohammedan tracts, and, it is said, he will soon have a mosque (place of worship) there. He is anxious that the American people should understand what Mohammed taught, what he intended to accomplish, and what he did accomplish. He intends to distribute a good many tracts free, and others will be supplied at exactly the cost of publication and postage. In the building where the paper is published there is to be a free library and reading room, which will be open from 9 o'clock in the morning to 10 at night, where the public will have access to the works of prominent and learned Mohammedans, which have been translated into English, for the information of English speaking nations.

The Mohammedans of India have organized and subscribed large sums of money for the purpose of spreading their faith to all parts of the world. They have written a circular which is published in various languages, and has been translated into English, in which they call upon all "true believers" to arouse themselves and send in subscriptions in money for the purpose of spreading their faith. They call to their attention the energy and zeal of the Mohammedans of old times, and contrast their conduct with the indifference of later generations. They ask, "But look at their exalted spirit and our falling back; their enthusiasm and our coldness of

heart; how long will this continue? It is now quite imperative that we must awake from this sleep of apathy."

The circular then goes on to describe the conversion of Mr. Webb, and his zeal and energy, and says, "he desires, if God so wills, to lead the caravans of his people into this straight, right path, and is fully occupied in his efforts to carry out this purpose. The continent of America is intently waiting for a call to Islam, even as a thirsty man waits for water when suffering intensely from drought. It waits only for a signal with the hand. It is sanguinely hoped that, if God's will so ordains, Islam will not take long to spread throughout the continent of America.

"Oh, brethren of Islam! this is the time for putting forth all your manliness and all your earnest efforts. We shall now see what results the enthusiasm now aroused will give, and to what heights the warmth of faith, now awakened, will carry the promulgation of Islam. It will also be seen who will endeavor to acquire a record of good deeds in the register of their deeds.

"God should be praised and thanked because some of the leading people of Bombay have organized a special committee for the purpose of giving effect to the proposed propaganda. The names of its members and officers are given below.

"One of the objects of the committee is to send a few learned people of Islam to America with Mr. M. A. R. Webb, who shall spread the faith of Islam. And after their arrival there they should call upon the people to embrace Islam in accordance with the ordinance of the majestic verse: 'Call to the path of your Lord, with wisdom and good admonition. Religious books are to be translated; a weekly paper, bearing on these matters, is to be issued, and a library charitably opened there containing religious books, so that the people there may derive benefit from them.

"Any contribution to the funds, from such as are disposed to assist in this good undertaking, will be deposited in the Bank of Bombay to the credit of the trustees of the funds. The contributors will receive receipts and be kept informed concerning the work from time to time. Bombay has been fixed upon as the headquarters of the mission. Mr. Hajee Abdulla Arab has been nominated as the manager, on behalf of the committee, and Mr. Syed Abdul Rahim Kadri has been co-operating with him in Hyderabad, Deccan. All funds intended for the work are to be sent to Mr. Hajee Hashim Abdulla Nurani, the treasurer, who will give receipts for them."

Mr. Webb announces that it is his "firm purpose, in publishing the *Moslem World*, to place the religion taught by the inspired prophet of Arabia before the English speaking world in its true light."

He says, "I am honestly and sincerely of the opinion that Islam, and Islamic laws, engrafted upon our social system, will prove a blessing of inestimable value, and a corrective of those evils which are sapping the life of our domestic institutions, and with which the Church—Christianity—seems powerless to contend."

For a very great number of years the so-called Christian churches of England and America have been sending troops of missionaries to convert

the Mohammedans of Asia. Their efforts have not been successful, but now Mohammedans say, "Since you have not been able to convert us, we will try and convert you."

It will be very interesting to watch the efforts which will be made by Mr. Webb and his friends in their missionary labors among the people of England and the United States.

ABRAHAM'S OAK.

ABRAHAM'S OAK is a remarkable-looking tree. It is claimed for it that it is the identical tree under which the patriarch entertained the three heavenly messengers who predicted the fall of the Cities of the Plain. The incident is related in Genesis, chapter xviii, and is remarkable for the clear lessons it conveys concerning God communicating with man.

We are told that the Lord appeared to Abraham in the plains of Mamre, as the patriarch was sitting in the opening of his tent, about noon. Lifting up his eyes, he beheld three men coming towards him. Abraham immediately arose and paid the strangers his compliments, politely urging them to rest in the shade and partake of the hospitality of the house. The invitation was accepted and, after a little while, water was brought for the strangers in which to bathe their feet, dusty from the journey; the table was spread with veal, bread, milk, cream, and "he (Abraham) stood by them under the tree, and they did eat."

One of the three strangers who were thus entertained on the plain of Mamre, the historian says, was Jehovah. The names of his companions are not given.

On this occasion, Abraham was promised an heir, a promise which was in due time fulfilled in Isaac.

The sun now nearing the western horizon and the air being cooler, the strangers rose and walked towards Sodom, Abraham, with true oriental politeness, accompanying them on their way. Then the memorable conversation ensued concerning the destruction of Sodom and adjacent cities. Abraham was particularly interested in this event, because his nephew, Lot, had settled there.

Abraham's intercession for the doomed cities, and the Lord's promises, are remembered by every Bible student. The final agreement was that if there were ten righteous persons found in Sodom, it should be spared. After this, the Lord went His way; Abraham returned to his tent, and the two companions of the Lord continued their journey to Sodom, where they arrived in the evening and were invited to the house of Lot.

The truly marvelous incidents thus related by the most ancient known historian of the world, supposed to have taken place under and in the vicinity of the oak of Abraham, make this gigantic tree an object of peculiar interest to a pilgrim in the Holy Land. It stands a short distance from the road between Hebron and Bethlehem, about half an hour's walk from the former place. It is carefully guarded by the owners, some Russians who have a *hospitium*, a kind of ecclesiastical inn, or monastery, in the vicinity. It belongs to the species known to botanists as *quercus*

ilex, stands quite isolated, but is surrounded by beautiful plantations. A spring with pure, nice water—something always appreciated in Palestine—is found near the oak.

The celebrated tree is about ten meters in circumference. About five meters from the ground the trunk is divided in three mighty branches, one of which is supported by posts, so as to prevent it from breaking by force of its own weight. It is needless to say that the guardians of this antiquity do not allow anybody to break a twig from it, or even a leaf, or to pick an acorn. What falls to the ground spontaneously is carefully gathered and disposed of for a trifle by the owners.

The question now remains, is this the genuine tree, under the shades of which our Heavenly Father rested and partook of the hospitality of Abraham? Hardly. The oak in question cannot be a thousand years old. A descendant of the tree of Abraham it may possibly be, but any other distinction (except its venerable age) must be disclaimed. But, notwithstanding this, the place where the oak stands is interesting. Somewhere, not far from here, Abraham must have had his tents pitched. He must have wandered over this very spot many a time, watching his numerous flocks in the surrounding hills and valleys. From somewhere near here, he must have watched the awful drama in which Sodom, Gomorrah and other cities were enveloped in flames and engulfed in the Dead Sea.

While visiting Jerusalem, I became acquainted with a gentleman from Germany, Mr. C. Lorentz, who had resided in Palestine for a number of years. I remember conversing with him one day on this subject and asked him, among other things, if he knew how far back the tradition, which points to this particular oak as the one belonging to Abraham, could be traced. To this question he replied, that he himself happened to know the gentleman who originated it.

"Among the colonists," he said, "who came here with German Templars, was one who noticed how easy it was to make money from sacred places and relics in Palestine, and nourished the idea that he might as well also try his fortune this way. After several vain efforts he finally discovered this ancient oak in the vicinity of Hebron, and the idea at once struck him, that if he could convince somebody that Abraham had been sitting under it, it might be worth money. He cut a limb off and made pipes, rulers, napkin-rings, penholders and various other trinkets from it, all labeled 'The Oak of Abraham.' Tourists and devout pilgrims bought these things, and thus the tree in a few years became famous. Russian monks now began to investigate the location of the relic, and the discoverer had a chance to become a party to a profitable transaction, by buying the oak, and a piece of land near it, from the natives and selling it to the credulous Russian clergy for a handsome sum."

This, according to Mr. Lorentz, is all there is in the tradition, and he asserted this with great emphasis.

I have not the slightest doubt that a number of so-called sacred places in Palestine owe the origin of their sacredness to as profane circumstances as this. The judicious traveler, therefore, is as careful in accepting as in rejecting the stories of the guides and the chanting monks who live on

the assumed genuineness of the various traditions.—*J. M. Sjodahl, in the Juvenile Instructor.*

COLONIZING THE JEWS.

MANY have wondered why the Jews, when in foreign lands, Europe and America, almost invariably are found in the clothing or provision trades, or known as pawnbrokers or peddlers. Baron de Hirsch, in giving his views on the future of his race is credited by the *Menorah*, of New York, U.S.A., with the following statement: "You desire to have my views regarding the general outlook for the future of Israel, and I am willing to give you my opinion. It is naturally a complicated and two-sided question. On the one hand is the antipathy against the opulent Jews, against all those who have succeeded in making a place in the very midst of this civilization which denies admittance to the unhappy outcasts of Russia. We will not enter into that part of the Jewish question, but confine ourselves to the fate of the Russian colonies in America and elsewhere. It is my desire, above all things, to prove to mankind that persecution alone has made the Jew what he is to-day, by keeping him hemmed in and confined to certain pursuits. Given freedom of action and an open field, he will be a successful agriculturist, and develop, in the next generation, into an excellent husbandman. I wish to free the nations of their burden, or, at any rate, lessen it, by opening new and spacious fields of action. You tell me there are many poor Jewish peddlers and tailors in New York; that there is a Ghetto as bad as the old Ghetto of Rome, except that the inhabitants of the New York Jews' quarters are not confined to it save by their own inclination. This is only the result of their newly acquired rights, the exercise of their free will and liberty to dwell where they please. You cannot force them to become pioneers. I am certain that all those who are managing the fund I have set aside for the special purpose are doing their best; but I will frankly confess that the greatest trouble I have had is to find competent men who are really willing to give their time. There is plenty of good will, and most conscientious work done by many busy men. But it absolutely requires the undivided attention of a great organizing mind to make a success of these colonies. The difficulty of securing this has been the most serious drawback in the execution of my project. Those who receive salaries, who, in fact, get their living while performing some part of the service, are unfortunately not men of marked ability, or men whose lives have proved them to be distinguished in any way. I do not find fault, mind you, but merely state the facts.

"Montefiore was often successful in what he did, because he himself went personally to attend to the matter. Unfortunately, I cannot go everywhere, or be at all points at the same time; but even if this were in my power, it is quite likely I would make mistakes *in the purchase of cattle.* I have delegated powers to others, which they are scrupulously making use of as best they know how. The chief trouble, I assure you, is to find the right sort of men to superintend the colonists. I myself would take

a Jesuit priest, a fanatic of any kind, who was imbued with a spirit of self-sacrifice and self-abnegation, if I could obtain such men. But such men will arise in our midst—some young American men who will devote all their energy, their talent, and their means in exchange for the ultimate success of these colonies. And the result will be a larger and ever-growing Jewish element of agriculturists and cattle-breeders, like in the old days of biblical shepherds. Only it will be in a wider and greater world, and will spread over all the new countries as yet barren and uncultivated. Both North and South America will be peopled by a new growth of manhood, purified by outdoor toil and being always near Mother Earth. A new race of Jews will grow up, and the huckster and chapman will be forgotten, the usurer looked upon as a myth, and the wide horizon offered by the beautiful western hemisphere will bring us all, when we reach it, not only nearer to heaven, but nearer to Thee, O God!"

FACTS AND EVENTS.

About 400,000,000 pounds of soap are used every year in Great Britain.

The death rate in the army is lower than it is among civilians by about 3 per 1,000.

The kangaroo readily leaps from 60 to 70 feet. The biggest recorded leap of a horse is 37 feet.

An average of six deaths from cholera, and ten fresh cases per day, are reported from Moscow.

Nearly 30,000 unaddressed letters are posted in this country every year, and about £8,000 is found in them.

In ten (recent) years the Rothschilds furnished £100,000,000 in loans to England Austria, Prussia, France, Russia and Brazil.

The letters in the various alphabets of the world vary from 12 to 202 in number. The Sandwich Islanders' alphabet has the first number, the Tartarian the last.

Although its close has been announced, the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the relatives of those lost in the battleship *Victoria* continues to increase, and now amounts to over £56,000.

While two men were being wound to the surface from one of the pits at the Chisenhall collieries, Coppull, near Wigan, the hoppet, in which they were ascending, through some accident fell down the shaft, and the two men were killed, their bodies being frightfully mangled.

There are, we are told, in the United States 1,758 county jails and only 44 juvenile reformatories. Great Britain, on the other hand, supports over 400 reformatories and industrial schools, and in consequence has been able to close 56 out of 113 prisons and jails within ten years.

The Icelandic sagas contain the earliest allusion to the distinctive character of the Highland dress. They relate how Magnus Olafson, king of Norway, and his followers, when they returned from ravaging the west coast of Scotland, went about bare-legged, having short kirtles and upper wraps, and so men called him "Barelegs." This was in 1093.

The Archbishop of Canterbury receives a salary of $75,000 a year. Next to the Queen, he occupies the position of the Head of the Church. The Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London receive $50,000 each; the Bishop of Durham receives $35,000, and the Bishop of Winchester nearly as much, and other salaries of the Episcopal body range from $10,000 to $25,000.

Two men, named Richards and Davies, were found guilty of the murder of Police-Constable Eves at the Essex Assizes, and were sentenced to death.

People speak of "waves mountain high." The fact is that the highest waves ever met with, those off the Cape of Good Hope, under the influence of a north-westerly gale, have only slightly exceeded forty feet in height.

A cyclist, named William Platt, met with a shocking death at Nantwich. He was returning to Nantwich after a run, and turned sharply to escape a lad who ran into the street after a ball. This cost him his life, as, being unable to right the machine, he was thrown with great violence against the kerbstone, sustaining fearful injuries to the head. He died almost immediately.

An English rainmaker, now operating in India, has an apparatus consisting of a rocket capable of rising to the height of a mile, containing a reservoir of ether. In its descent it opens a parachute, which causes it to come down slowly. The ether is thrown out in a fine spray, and its absorption of the heat is said to lower the temperature about it sufficiently to condense the vapor and produce a limited shower.

From South Pembrokeshire comes the information of a mysterious disease among cattle that so far has baffled the skill of the veterinary surgeons in the county. In one farm, on Lord Cawdor's Stackpole estate, it has carried off no less than twenty-three beasts, and on another on the same estate, five of the best cattle have died of it. The fullest information, it is said, has been forwarded to the authorities in London.

At Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A., a man named Louis Gregg, who was invalided through exposure during the great storm on the 5th of April, has just died after a remarkable experience. He fell in a sound slumber, from which day after day, and week after week, no one could arouse him. Only twice did he regain consciousness since his deep sleep began. On the first occasion he was sensible for an hour, and the second ten minutes.

At Stafford Assizes John Thomas Wright, nineteen years of age, a miner, has been sentenced to death for the murder of Wm. Masfen, a gentleman farmer near Cannock. Deceased was found dead in a ditch, shot through the back of the neck. The prisoner, when arrested, said that he was caught poaching, and in the struggle the gun accidentally went off, but the evidence conclusively showed that the prisoner must have been nine yards away when the shot was fired.

At Russellville, Alabama, U.S.A., a man named John Lyon married a widow, named Mrs. Richardson, not long ago. The widow had two sons—Line and Clark Richardson. Lyon soon became obnoxious to the lady and her family, and some months ago she left him and sued for divorce. The case came up for trial. During the proceedings Lyon spoke in a very harsh manner of his wife, when her son Line called him a liar. Lyon called Line a vile name, and drawing a pistol fired at him, wounding him in the left shoulder. He was about to fire a second shot when Line's brother, Clark, sprang upon Lyon with a bowie knife, cutting his throat from ear to ear. Lyon dropped dead.

On the 18th of November, 1891, a little girl in Chicago, U.S.A., was so badly burned that amputation of both arms, leaving stumps of only three and one-half inches, was necessary. The child, being motherless, was given into the custody of the Children's Home Society. A fund was raised for her support, and, among others, Messrs. Truax, Greene & Co. were called upon for a contribution. In response the firm offered to make for the child aluminum arms of special design. Several months of experimenting were needed and several plans were rejected, but success was at last attained, and the arms are so useful that the child is even able to write with them. Mechanically speaking, the arms and hands are built up from thin sheets of aluminum. They have all the articulations, excepting that of the wrist, of the natural hand. The fingers are controlled by springs, each moving separately. The hands and lower halves of the forearms are removeable at a point midway between the wrist and elbow. The principle adopted consists of a series of cords and pulleys, which are united by a system of bands passing across the back.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1893.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

THE powers of the earth are preparing to enter into the fulfillment of the Scripture prophecies. The Savior, in warning His disciples and giving them instructions as to the proper course to pursue when the time for Jerusalem's destruction should draw nigh, also gave them certain signs by which the end of the world should be foretold. Among other things He declared that they should hear of wars and rumors of wars, that nation should rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. At the same time the Gospel should be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.

Reflection on the Savior's words, by those who are following the injunction and watching the signs of the times, brings home, with peculiar force, the present condition of affairs among the nations recognized as the powers of the earth. Comparative peace now reigns over the whole of the known world; that is, no great struggle for ascendancy is in progress. But what are the indications? What are the preparations?

Let us glance for a moment at the situation. The Franco-Prussian war, as a result of which France lost all of Alsace and a goodly portion of Lorraine, besides having to pay the enormous war indemnity of 5,000,000,000 francs, an obligation which she discharged in two years, engendered a decided hatred in the hearts of the French towards the victor—Germany. Ever since then the French have set their hearts on regaining their much valued provinces. The spirit of revenge has been burning in their hearts; they have never forgotten their galling defeat. The children are imbued with the same ideas, from hearing their elders dwell with bitterness on that event of twenty years ago. During that score of years France has not only enriched herself, but, with scrupulous care, taught by experience, has studied the most improved methods of modern warfare, strengthened her armies, secretly planned fortifications of an extended nature, and, with the most cunning diplomacy, sought alliance with other powers.

Germany, her arch enemy, has not been blind to the movement in the west, but has also been forcibly reminded that her vast boundaries on the east were not, by any means, adequately protected against invasion. Add to this the following data of the war referred to and Germany's present

anxiety ceases to be a wonder: Germany won the battle against the French at Wissembourg with 44,000 men and 72 guns, against 25,000 French and 18 guns; the battle of Woerth, with 96,200 men and 342 guns, against 45,000 French and 131 guns; of Spicherin, with 67,000 men and 120 guns, against 32,000 French with 70 guns; of Sedan, with 155,000 men and 700 guns, against 90,000 French and 408 guns; and at Gravelotte there were 240,000 Germans arrayed against 160,000 French, with the usual preponderance of German artillery. Knowing that her victory over France was due to overwhelming force in 1870-71, is it a cause for wonder that the recent efforts for greater military strength have been so energetic, and the army bill so vigorously pushed? With France equal to Germany in strength the victory of twenty years ago might be turned into disastrous defeat for Germany, should war commence, unless that great power be kept continually in the lead. For that reason the emperor requested that a bill, providing for the further increase of the forces, be passed. When the reichstag refused to accede to his demands he promptly dissolved it. Another reichstag was elected, and toward the close of last month the cherished measure passed the new chamber, and Germany will doubtless bestir herself vigorously in her preparations.

Russia, the greater power on the east, proposes to add two army corps to her already overwhelming military strength to counterbalance the increased force of the German armies, and thus the burden of the standing armies is continually being increased. Russia's present relations with Germany are, to all appearances, friendly, if not amicable; but the unrest and the continual preparations for war belie the sincerity of all friendly protestations. Russia is as anxious to enlarge her domain, thereby increasing her wealth, power and influence, as other nations, and, as already a tacit understanding exists between her and France, Germany's anxiety is accounted for.

Great Britain is watching every move on the political checkerboard, and is anything but idle. Her navy is yearly being increased in order that her proud title of "Mistress of the Sea" shall remain unimpaired. Only two weeks ago she completed the battleship *Empress of India* and the cruiser *Grafton* at a cost of £1,750,000.

The United States, for thirty years practically without a navy, is building large battleships, coast defence vessels and armed cruisers, and will, if her present work be carried on for a few years, become a great rival for the supremacy of the ocean.

The minor powers are viewing the situation with trembling, but so far as their credit and influence can do it, they are preparing for a struggle which, on the slightest provocation, may be precipitated.

The picture is anything but reassuring. The Universal Peace Congress was held in Paris in 1889 and was so successful that another was held in London in 1890, and in Rome in 1891. Notwithstanding the success which has attended these congresses, the objects aimed at, namely a gradual abolition of standing armies and a settlement by arbitration of all disputes, formerly decided with the sword, powder and lead, have so far miscarried. Instead of diminishing their armies the nations of the earth are expending

millions in enlarging and strengthening them, and inventing new and more ingenious implements for wholesale slaughter.

We live, as it were, on a volcano, which, while it gives us fair warning by its rumblings of a threatened activity, serves but to fascinate and charm us. We have either grown so accustomed to the sound that no fear is entertained; or else, we see no avenue of escape. Amid apparent peacefulness the powers of evil are at work stirring up the hearts of mankind to carnage and rapine, like a hungry beast which cannot brook a rival in the same jungle. The scheming and plotting, some call it diplomacy and legitimate strategy, are deeper than before, because conducted with greater secrecy and on a vaster scale. Who can fail to read the signs and, reading them, fail to prepare for His coming?

The Gospel of the kingdom is being preached in all the world as a witness unto all nations. The Elders have traversed land and sea crying repentance unto the nations, calling on them to heed the voice of revelation, to accept of the Gospel with its saving principles and holy ordinances, to gather from the lands where they have imbibed false traditions to the place allotted the Saints of God, where they will escape the plagues, famines and pestilences that will assuredly prove the results of the struggle among the nations. That this calamity cannot be averted seems to have impressed the monarchs of the earth, for, with the unrest of the animal creation prior to a violent disturbance of the elements, they are seeking, if not shelter, at least what they think the best possible protection—superior strength of arms.

The Saints of Almighty God watch the signs of the times with anxious hearts, bleeding for those whose destruction is nigh, yet they place implicit faith in the promises of God, for they have listened to His voice, they have obeyed His commandments and they will receive His divine protection.

J. V. B.

EVERY day brings to light some new and deadly invention to be used in case of war. The development of the shrapnel shell is, in the opinion of Mr. Spenser Wilkinson, who accompanied Lord Roberts in his recent inspections in the Punjah, the most remarkable change in the mechanism of war that has been made in our time. The shrapnel is described as a hollow steel cylinder filled with bullets, and having in its head or in its base a charge of powder just sufficient to break the case. The charge is fired by a fuse, which in the latest patterns is made either to light itself from the flash in the gun and to fire the charge after a fixed number of seconds (time fuse), or to explode the charge whenever the shell strikes the ground (percussion fuse). The shrapnel with the time fuse, adds Mr. Wilkinson in his article in the *United Service Magazine*, is the gunner's most deadly weapon. Show him his target 3,000 yards away; he will try and fire his shrapnel so that it shall explode about a hundred yards short of the target and fifteen feet from the ground. The hundred or hundred and fifty bullets will rush on, spreading as they go, carrying destruction to as many points over an area twenty yards wide and three hundred yards long, of which the target will be at the center. One such crash of bullets would produce a terrible effect upon any body of troops within its area; fifty or

a hundred such showers, falling within a few minutes in the same area, would utterly destroy all living things upon the ground they swept. The modern gunner's object is accordingly to cover, with a quick succession of shrapnel-bullet hurricanes, the region where his enemy is to be attacked.

THE Chicago *Herald* has an excellent article on the Cymrodorion society, of Chicago, and the great results, musically, accomplished all over America by Welsh workers. In the article is a pleasant reference to the fact that "the great Mormon Temple choir, which will come to Chicago in September, is led by a Welshman—Mr. Evan Stephens." The same article commends the enterprise of the committee of three Welsh workers who came out to Utah and "induced the Mormon Apostles to consent to allow the choir to make the great trip."

ARRIVALS.—Elders C. W. Robinson, Edward R. Frei, Albert Bryner and Henry Hasler arrived at Bern on the 14th of July. These brethren have been appointed to labor in the German Mission. In company with the above Elders was Brother Joseph Anderson, who goes to Leipzig to study music.

RELEASES AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elder Andrew Morrison is honorably released from presiding over the Sheffield Conference, to return home.

Elder Geo. Black is honorably released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Sheffield Conference, to return home.

Elder James Beus is honorably released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Irish Conference, to return home.

Elder Andrew Easton is honorably released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Scottish Conference, to return home.

Elder Edwin Solomon is honorably released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Cheltenham Conference, to return home.

Elder Joseph Campbell is honorably released from presiding over the Norwich Conference, to return home.

Elder Ira Williams is released from his labors in the Welsh Conference, and appointed to labor in the London Conference.

Elder Charles Tillotson is released from his labors in the Leeds Conference, and appointed to preside over the Norwich Conference.

Elder Hyrum Kirkham is appointed to preside over the Sheffield Conference.

Elder G. D. Snell is released from his labors in the Leeds Conference, and appointed to labor in the London Conference.

LONDON CONFERENCE NOTICE.—The London Conference will be held at 36 Penton Street, Islington, London, on Sunday, September 3, 1893. Meetings will commence at 10:30 a.m., and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

A BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM.

THE ancient lawgiver of Sparta gave to that people an injunction to respect old age, and history has given us a few instances of the reverence

for age thus inculcated in the youth of that sturdy, warlike people Where, in the wide world to-day, is given due reverence to old age? It may be found among the peasants of the fairhaired people of the north, but in only one place is the pathway of those whose course is nearly run made smoother and easier; in but one community is age generally honored and the declining years made happy and cheerful. That place is Utah. Seventeen years ago an Old Folks' Day was inaugurated there and it is still maintained. The Ogden *Standard* in an editorial speaks of the custom in these touching words:

"Age brings, not sorrow, but joy and triumph and such peace as earth can give in a community where it is honored as it is in Utah. Instead of cold neglect, here old age receives the tenderest attentions from youth and middle life. How beautiful must be the sunset of existence to the women and men who congregated here. Many of them are heroes; every one of them can look back upon the greater part of a century filled with their deeds of patient industry and benevolence, and all can justly feel that they are regarded as a sacred trust by the generations which follow after them. The years which they have passed may have revolutionized nearly all things else in human nature; but, thank God! they have not changed the reverence which is felt for the women and men who endured in the past to make the glorious present possible. Old Folks' Day is the best and sweetest day in all the cycle of the seasons."

On the 18th of July, 1893, 1203 souls arrived, from the south, at Ogden, the place where Old Folks' Day was this time to be celebrated. Of these, 1016 were over 70 years of age.

Weber county and northern Utah added 300 more over 70 years. The oldest of the honored guests were Mrs. Johanna Hall, of Ogden, aged 96 years and Mrs. Anne Taylor, of Salt Lake, aged 93 years. The various decades 90, 80 and 70 years of age were represented by white, blue and red badges.

It is balm to the heart to see the loving attention bestowed upon these veterans. On this occasion, as on all former ones, everything was good natured confusion on their arrival at Ogden. Hundreds of willing hands were doing all they could in waiting on the aged visitors. Beautiful girls were flying in every direction, their sweet young voices calling out for this, or that, as they were feasting the grandfathers and grandmothers. Every table was decorated profusely with flowers, lending fragrance to the whole scene. Sweet strains of music were poured into their ears, every want supplied, every desire anticipated. It was a happy day not only for the veterans, but for those whose kind hands and sweet smiles had made them happy. The observance of Old Folks' Day is a beautiful custom and is a green spot in the desert of cold, calculating and sordid selfishness, which in this age seems to pervade the souls of humanity.

ELECTIVE FRANCHISE RESTORED.

On June 19, through the secretary of the interior, the Utah commission asked for an official opinion from the attorney general of the United

States as to the effect which President Harrison's amnesty proclamation would have upon the right of persons, heretofore disfranchised, to register and vote. The following telegram was received:

WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 17.

A. B. Williams, Chairman Utah Commission, Salt Lake, Utah:

Under date of 12th inst. attorney general declined to render an opinion on question presented in your letter of 19th ult., having no authority to advise commissioners in exercise of duties of their office.

WM. H. SIMS,
Acting Secretary.

The Utah commission after devoting a whole morning to a thorough discussion of the question, adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, a difference of opinion appears to exist as to the efficacy of the amnesty granted by ex-President Harrison to relieve sexual offenders, in Utah, from prior disability to vote; and

Whereas, in the interest of elective government, that doubt ought to be solved in favor of the man;

Therefore resolved, that any person in the Territory otherwise qualified to vote, and who has abstained from committing any such sexual offense since November 1, 1890, ought, in the opinion of the commission, for the reason aforesaid, to be permitted to register.

JULY 17, 1893.

While we voluntarily concur in the proposition to advise the registration officers of the various election precincts, that in the opinion of the commission they may, and should, permit former polygamists to register as voters, if otherwise qualified, upon their taking an oath, or affirmation, that they have not, since the 1st day of November, 1890, been guilty of the practices forbidden by the acts of Congress known as the Edmunds and Edmunds-Tucker laws, we desire to record that it is our opinion, speaking strictly from a legal standpoint, and not as we might wish were its legal effect, that the deprivation of the voting privilege is merely an electoral regulation, fixing their qualification of voters, and not a penalty or punishment for crime or disobedience to the laws, and, therefore, that the amnesty proclamation of the President does not, without further legislation, restore the privilege of voting to those thus disfranchised.

As this is a question, however, upon which opinions differ, even among those who command respect for legal acumen, it becomes so much a question of doubt, that we feel impelled to resolve the doubt in favor of those who suffer from the deprivation, and therefore give our assent. If an error of judgment, it is an error on the side of clemency, is in accord with the spirit of the proclamation, and, as we believe, in accord with the sentiment of the people of the Territory, as well as one which can more readily be defended than an error in the other direction.

R. S. ROBERTSON,
A. B. WILLIAMS,
JOHN A. MCCLERNAND.

Col. Godfrey stated for himself and Col. Lett that they voted for the resolution because they believed it to be the law.—*Deseret News.*

A MAMMOTH IDOL.

Two miles out from Kamakura, and about twenty miles from Yokohama, in Japan, on a terrace near the temple of Kamakura, sits the most gigantic idol, or heathen god, now known to exist. This immense brazen image of

a deity was built, or made, during the reign of Shomu, who was forty-sixth in the present line of emperors, and who died in the early part of the year 748 A. D.

This idol, which has been prayed to daily for more than twelve hundred years by the crowd of devotees that hourly cluster about it, is still in perfect repair and justly reckoned as one of the greatest wonders of the Orient. Frank Dobbins, who visited Dia-Butsu, and has given the best description of the god that has yet been written, mentions the following details:

The dimensions of this god are truly colossal. His height, from the base of the lotus flower upon which he sits to the top of his head, is sixty-three and a half feet.

Above this rises an aureole 14 feet wide, above which again rises, for several feet, the flame-like glory which encloses, or arches in, with wondrous beauty the whole figure.

The face proper is 16 feet long; its width 9½ feet. The eyes are 3 feet 9 inches long from corner to corner, the eyebrows 5½ feet, and the ears 8½ feet. The chest is 20 feet in depth, and its middle finger is exactly 5 feet long.

Around the sides, head and shoulders of the god, in front of the aureole, are sixteen figures, each in a sitting posture, and each exactly 8 feet in height.

The leaves of the immense lotus upon which the god sits, are each 10 feet long and 6 feet wide, there being fifty-six of them altogether in this beautiful cluster.

The casting must have been well executed, although the fineness of the leaf edges and other parts, which I was able to examine, and the elaborate engraving, which can still be traced upon the flower itself in the uninjured parts, leave no doubt that the founder's art was supplemented, here and there, by artists with file and graver. The right hand is open and raised upward; the left rests upon the lap.

The image weighs about four hundred and fifty tons, and is made of a combination of the metals gold, tin, copper, and mercury, in the following proportions:

	Pounds.
Gold	500
Mercury	1,954
Tin	16,827
Copper	986,080
Total	1,005,361

All other existing colossal images are pigmies compared with Dia-Butsu, whose hard-visaged face has looked down on the meaningless rite of the heathen idolaters for more than twelve centuries.—*Cannes Advertiser.*

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from Territorial papers.)

A fire at Beck's hot springs destroyed about $4,000 worth of property.

Sister Elsie Booth, mother of John E. Booth, of Provo, died at Alpine, Utah, July 11.

The Commercial National Bank, of Ogden, closed by the defalcation of its cashier, will probably resume business again.

Caroline Trondson, of Logan, fourteen years of age, fell from a horse, breaking her left arm between the wrist and elbow.

Owing to the stringency of the money market Salt Lake City has been unable to secure any bids on the proposed school bonds of $225,000.

The new comet discovered in America was first seen by a resident of Salt Lake City, named Rordam, and he will receive the bronze medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Those who were recipients of the amnesty proclamation of ex-President Harrison will now be permitted to vote on taking an oath that, since that proclamation, they have obeyed the law.

The question of wages at the Ontario and Daly mines has been settled by arbitration. The 25 per cent. reduction has been compromised to 10 and 15 per cent. and the miners will continue work.

Word has been received from the Detroit district, Milford, that Charles M. Howard's smelter was destroyed by fire. No details are given. The smelter was erected at a cost of about $60,000.

Judge R. W. Cross, of Ogden, died at that place on July 17, 1893. He had for years been afflicted with rheumatism. He had been United States Commissioner at Ogden for a number of years, and had filled one term as probate judge of Weber county.

On the very day when the old folks were being entertained, William Taylor, one of Ogden's and Utah's history makers, died at his residence in that city. The call to the other and better world came unexpectedly, but was answered without a murmur and with a smile of happiness. The deceased was 86 years of age.

At Grantsville, Tooele county, a four year old son of Jethro Rydalch, secured access to a wash-stand used as a medicine chest and, taking out a bottle containing tincture of iodine, he, childlike, uncorked it and put it to his mouth. The act was discovered in time to prevent any of the poison reaching the stomach, but the boy's mouth and throat were fearfully, though not fatally, burned.

A brown bear was killed in Providence canyon, about five miles from Logan, by Ferdinand Zallinger of Providence. Of late a number of cattle, which were ranging in the mountains, have been killed by bears, and parties went up the canyon to see what stock was missing. Coming across a bear in the pathway, Mr. Zallinger soon dispatched him with a rifle, put the bear on his horse and came to town. Two cubs were also killed in the same canyon.

John Frank Allred, of Spring City, met with a bad accident recently. He had a number of logs raised on end for use, with his hay fork, and was up thirty feet arranging matters when a high wind carried the whole thing over. When he found it was going over he slid down about fifteen feet, but by this time it was so far gone that it swung him under and the log fell on him, crushing his chest and breaking his right leg above the ankle. He is now improving, and, notwithstanding all belief to the contrary, will recover.

The Union Pacific Railway Company proposes to reduce its force of employees in the near future. The cause is almost entirely due to the enormous fall in silver. "The war on the white metal has been so terrific of late," said a railway official, "that it has not only a tendency but the effect of paralyzing the business interests of the West." Over 20,000 men are employed on the system, and a cut of one-fourth in its working force must greatly demoralize and injure the business communities through which the road and its branches run, among which is Utah. It means a decreased pay roll and thousands of men thrown out of employment, many of them with families depending on their labor for support.